

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00163 01 OF 02 080428Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

EUR-12 /054 W

-----080433Z 111018 /60

O 080248Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1403

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 0163/1

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREA TIMES INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 003723

1. UPI STORY WAS BASED ON ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY MESSAGE IN
REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY KOREA TIMES. WRITTEN
REPLY BASED ESTABLISHED POLICY LINES. AS YOU WILL NOTE UPI
STORY DISTORTED REPLY ON TROOP PULLOUT QUESTION.

2. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW REQUESTED REFTEL IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

Q. WHAT DEVELOPMENT DO YOU EXPECT OR WISH TO SEE BETWEEN
YOUR COUNTRY AND KOREA DURING THE NEW YEAR, PARTICULARLY IN
TERMS OF COMMON WISHES FOR THE PROMOTION OF BILATERAL
RELATIONS IN POLITICAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS?

A. THE VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES
DEVELOPED OVER MANY YEARS. WE HAVE BEEN COMRADES IN ARMS IN
A TERRIBLE WAR, AND DURING YEARS OF PEACE HAVE BUILT UP A
REWARDING TRADE RELATIONSHIP. OUR COMPLEMENTARY INTERESTS
ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS. WE STILL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00163 01 OF 02 080428Z

HAVE MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER, HOWEVER, AND I WOULD LIKE
TO SEE MORE EFFORTS MADE TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING. I
PERSONALLY WILL BE ENCOURAGING MORE AMERICAN CULTURAL PROGRAMS
IN KOREA; I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE AMERICAN VISITORS AND MORE
AMERICAN ARTISTS PERFORM HERE. THE MAGNIFICENT NEW CITIZEN'S
AUDITORIUM WILL ATTRACT MANY MORE VISITING ARTISTS TO KOREA
AFTER IT OPENS NEXT YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD ENCOURAGE KOREA TO MAKE MORE OF ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE AVAILABLE TO THE WORLD. THE NATIONAL MUSEUM EXHIBIT OF "5,000 YEARS OF KOREAN ART" WOULD IMPRESS MANY AMERICANS WITH THE BREADTH AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF KOREAN CULTURE. IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO SEND THE EXHIBIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

Q. HOW DO YOU THINK KOREA CAN BEST CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE FAR EAST IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE FROM NORTH KOREA TO A VARIETY OF PEACE-SEEKING OVERTURES?

A. KOREA IS ALREADY CONTRIBUTING DIRECTLY TO STABILITY AND PEACE IN ASIA BY MAINTAINING A FIRM DEFENSE POSTURE AND CONTINUING ITS REMARKABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. UNTIL NORTH KOREA REALIZES THAT HOSTILITY WILL BE UNREWARDING, STABILITY ON THIS PENINSULA WILL DEPEND ON THE STRENGTH AND WILL OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. THERE CAN BE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO RESIST AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR APPRAISAL OF THE COMPARATIVE DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS OF SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA IN RECENT YEARS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMACY?

A. NORTH KOREA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES DURING THE PAST YEAR ARE WELL KNOWN. ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S RELATIVE INTERNATIONAL POSITION DEFINITELY IMPROVED DURING 1976. THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE UN GENERAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00163 01 OF 02 080428Z

ASSEMBLY THIS FALL -- AN ANTICIPATED CONFRONTATION OVER THE KOREA ISSUE DID MATERIALIZE. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS FIRM SUPPORT FOR KOREA'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION, OF COURSE, AND I THINK MANY UN MEMBERS NOW REALIZE THAT REASONABLE POSITIONS OFFER SOME HOPE FOR ACHIEVING REASONABLE SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES INVOLVING KOREA. IT IS A BIT EARLY, THOUGH, TO SPECULATE ON HOW MODERATION IN THE UN THIS YEAR MAY BE REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1977.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT SUCH REGIONAL BODIES AS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) AND THE ANZUS ALLIANCE CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR COMMON BENEFITS IN THE PRESENT-DAY SITUATION, WHICH ALLOWS ASIAN COUNTRIES TO ADOPT DIFFERENT POLICY LINES INDIVIDUALLY IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST STATES?

A. REGIONAL ALLIANCES INCLUDING ASEAN AND ANZUS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN ASIA, AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE ORGANIZATIONS STRENGTHENED. GROWING INTER DEPENDENCE

HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS OF ASIA. ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ASEAN WHICH EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE CITIZENS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. DEFENSE ALLIANCES SUCH AS ANZUS, BY PROVIDING FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE, MAKE A REGION MORE SECURE. SO REGIONAL AGREEMENTS SERVE TO STRENGTHEN

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND HELP THEM PURSUE THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS WITHIN A SECURE FRAMEWORK, FREE FROM UNWARRANTED OUTSIDE PRESSURE. THEY HELP LIMIT THE TURMOIL THAT DEVELOPS WHEN AN AREA IS THE FOCUS OF COMPETING CAMPS AND IDEOLOGIES. THE UNITED STATES AS A PACIFIC POWER PARTICIPATES IN SOME OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS. THEY ARE VALUABLE INSTITUTIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00163 02 OF 02 080428Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

EUR-12 /054 W

-----080433Z 111019 /62

O 080248Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1404

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 0163/2

Q. DO YOU THINK THE U.S. POLICIES ON ASIA UNDER JIMMY CARTER WILL CHANGE? IF YOU BELIEVE SO, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE PULLOUT OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA, LIABLE TO CAUSE A POWER VACUUM WHICH THE COMMUNIST POWERS MAY TRY TO FILL? (SIC)

A. AMERICAN POLICIES IN ASIA REFLECT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THIS AREA OF THE WORLD. OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND THE REALITIES OF ASIA, HAVE NOT CHANGED OVERNIGHT. THIS WOULD ARGUE AGAINST ANY FUNDAMENTAL, RADICAL CHANGE IN OUR ASIAN POLICY. AS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S POLICIES TOWARD KOREA, IT IS TRUE THAT HE RECENTLY AFFIRMED THAT HE INTENDED TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF GROUND TROOPS HERE, BUT I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT HE WAS VERY CAREFUL TO INDICATE THE REDUCTION WOULD BE "VERY SLOW, VERY METHODICAL," AND "VERY CAREFUL" AND THAT THERE WOULD BE CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREA AND JAPAN. THE UNITED STATES HAS A TREATY OF MUTUAL DEFENSE WITH THE REPUBLIC;

NO "POWER VACUUM" IS GOING TO COME INTO EXISTENCE HERE, NO
MATTER WHAT ADJUSTMENTS IN TROOPS LEVELS MAY OCCUR.

Q. HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE POST-MAO CIRCUMSTANCES IN MAINLAND
CHINA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EFFECT OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP THERE
ON FUTURE U.S.-JAPAN-SOVIET-CHINA RELATIONS?

A. QUESTIONS ABOUT CHINA ARE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00163 02 OF 02 080428Z

AS AMBASSADOR TO KOREA, BUT I WOULD SAY THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY
REPORTS OF CHANGES THAT WOULD BE OBVIOUSLY HARMFUL TO KOREAN
OR AMERICAN INTERESTS. I AM JUST AS INTERESTED AS ANYONE ELSE
IN SEEING HOW PRC LEADERSHIP CHANGES MAY TRANSLATE INTO FUTURE POLICY.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR WISH FOR THE NEW YEAR ON A PERSONAL LEVEL?

A. THIS HAS BEEN MY THIRD HOLIDAY SEASON CELEBRATED IN
KOREA AS AMBASSADOR. MY WIFE, LEA, AND I HAVE BEEN ALMOST
OVERWHELMED WITH THE FRIENDSHIPS WE HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THESE
PAST FEW YEARS. I HAVE FOUND MY PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
VERY REWARDING ALSO. 1977 WILL BE ANOTHER BUSY, ACTIVE YEAR
FOR US, AND WE BOTH ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
END TEXT
SNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, AMBASSADORS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL00163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770008-0020
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaachyt.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2805b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 3723
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3637670
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA TIMES INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2805b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009